

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1925
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
ILLEGAL AUCTION OF ANTIQUES
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some rare Indian antiques / sculptures are reported to have made illegal entry in overseas markets through auction houses in UK and USA;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the legendary Vagdevi idol is presently displayed at the British Museum; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to retrieve the same?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, sir. According to information received from the concerned unit of CBI, during the last three years, one case of illegal export of antique Stamps of Indian origin to UK & USA was registered by them.

(c) & (d) The matter of retrieval of the image of Vagdevi presently on display at the British Museum in London through the diplomatic channels has been taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs.